

## Mahathir: Two-party system won't work in Malaysia

# STABILITY COMES FIRST: PM

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JITRA, Mon. — Malaysia should not have a two-party system as this could affect national stability, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said that such a system as practised in some developed countries like the United States could also be dangerous.

"If we have a two-party system and the one in power happened to win the elections by a hairline margin, it cannot run the nation peacefully," Dr Mahathir told a Hari Raya meeting with teachers at the Sekolah Menengah Jitra here.

"The opposition party will look for opportunities to buy over elected representatives from the ruling party, especially the dissatisfied ones, when there are too few top posts for too many candidates."

Dr Mahathir said that when such a situation arose, "the ruling party would be threatened and it would not be confident of its power."

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"Under such a situation, the ruling party could be toppled anytime and everyone would be too busy worrying about threats instead of national development," he added.

He said Malaysia was fortunate that this situation had been avoided because the Barisan Nasional won an 80 per cent majority in Parliament in 1986.

"Although the Barisan needed only a 66 per cent victory or two-thirds in Parliament to run the country, it was given an overwhelming support. This shows our policies are well received and acceptable by all," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that Umno Baru, being the back-

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# Be politically conscious, Mahathir tells teachers

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bone of the Barisan, had thus been given a rightful and stable place in the running of the country and this must be preserved.

He said this stable political atmosphere had been a tradition to the people and the party and that "Umno is now strong and cannot be shaken."

However, he said, certain people were trying to break the party tradition by attempting to grab power.

"They are just too impatient and not prepared to sacrifice. It is important in politics to sacrifice for the sake of the majority, but some just cannot wait to become leaders," he said.

"They want to be Prime Minister or Ministers and are becoming power-crazy at the expense of Umno's tradition and the country's well-being," he added.

Dr Mahathir said such actions could jeopardise the economy and "if the economy is jeopardised, many will suffer."

"If this happens, there will be no pay rise for civil servants or teachers," he said jokingly.

Dr Mahathir urged teachers to be politically conscious and help disseminate correct political philosophy in schools.

He said the teachers should discard their traditional belief that they should not be politically committed.

He said that times had changed and that political awareness should be the concern of all.

"Teachers should always keep abreast with political developments. They must not think that politics is meant only for political

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parties. They must look at the national values and teach students the right political philosophy in schools," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the spread of this philosophy was especially vital to a multiracial, democratic country like Malaysia.

He said students should be taught what democracy and freedom actually meant.

Freedom was one important aspect of democracy "but many had misconstrued its meaning."

"In many countries, we see violent student demonstrations that led to bloodshed, political and economic instability and even the downfall of a government or nation. In other places, some taught freedom to mean that they can just walk around in public naked," he said.

## MISGUIDED

Dr Mahathir said such wrong interpretation of freedom and misguided beliefs would only result in chaos and confusion.

He said some even think that such disastrous actions were "expressions of liberalism."

He added that the good values of freedom and democracy should be instilled in the people, right from school.

"Students must be made aware of what is happening around us and other parts of the world. They must be taught what freedom and liberalism actually mean in the context of national development and well-being of the masses," he said.

"Teachers should always consider themselves as community leaders and that they are an important strength to the nation's political future," he added.